

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 9 is amended and claims 17 to 25 are added as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1 to 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A spring comprising:

first and second rigid end members moveable relative to each other causing the distance therebetween to vary during operation of said spring;

5 an elastic spring body mounted between said end members;

said spring having a rotationally symmetrical cross section and a longitudinal section having biconvex shape;

said elastic spring body ~~having a surface and being of~~ rubber or a rubber-like plastic and having a surface which is

10 pressed with more or less area of said surface against said rigid end members as said distance varies;

a first plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective first distances;

15 a second plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective second distances; and,

said second plurality of ribs intersecting said first

20 plurality of ribs so as to form a multiplicity of intermediate spaces defining a corresponding plurality of polygonal areas or cavities on said surface wherein air collects to become trapped between said spring body and said rigid end members to form a plurality of air pillows as said rigid end members move toward each other so as to permit said elastic spring body to slide on said air pillows.

10. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 9, wherein a surface coating to facilitate sliding is provided on at least one of said elastic spring body, said first end member and said second end member.

11. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 10, wherein said first plurality of ribs are mutually parallel and said second plurality of ribs are mutually parallel and intersect said first plurality of ribs orthogonally.

12. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 11, wherein said first plurality of ribs are spaced approximately 10 mm one from the other; and, said second plurality of ribs are spaced approximately 10 mm one from the other.

13. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 12, wherein said ribs each have a height of approximately 2 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 13, wherein said ribs are configured as wear or abrasion ribs.

15. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 14, wherein said ribs are made of a material which differs from the material of said spring body.

16. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 15, wherein said ribs have a surface to facilitate sliding.

17. (New) The spring of claim 9, wherein the ribs of said first and second plurality of ribs all have the same height.

18. (New) A spring comprising:

first and second rigid end members moveable relative to each other causing the distance therebetween to vary;

an elastic spring body mounted between said end members so as to act solely by itself as a spring between said rigid end members;

said spring having a rotationally symmetrical cross section and a longitudinal section having biconvex shape;

said elastic spring body having a surface and being of rubber or a rubber-like plastic;

a first plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective first distances and said first plurality of ribs having a predetermined height;

a second plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective second distances and said second plurality of ribs having a height equal to said predetermined height; and,

said second plurality of ribs intersecting said first

20 plurality of ribs so as to form a multiplicity of intermediate
spaces defining a corresponding plurality of polygonal cavities
on said surface wherein air collects to become trapped between
said spring body and said rigid end members to form a plurality
of air pillows as said rigid end members move toward each other
so as to permit said elastic spring body to slide on said air
25 pillows.

19. (New) The spring of claim 18, wherein a surface coating to
facilitate sliding is provided on at least one of said elastic
spring body, said first end member and said second end member.

20. (New) The spring of claim 19, wherein said first plurality
of ribs are mutually parallel and said second plurality of ribs
are mutually parallel and intersect said first plurality of ribs
orthogonally.

21. (New) The spring of claim 20, wherein said first plurality
of ribs are spaced approximately 10 mm one from the other; and,
said second plurality of ribs are spaced approximately 10 mm one
from the other.

22. (New) The spring of claim 21, wherein said ribs each have a
height of approximately 2 mm.

23. (New) The spring of claim 22, wherein said ribs are
configured as wear or abrasion ribs.

24. (New) The spring of claim 23, wherein said ribs are made of a material which differs from the material of said spring body.

25. (New) The spring of claim 24, wherein said ribs have a surface to facilitate sliding.